

## **DCFS Advisory Board Meeting September 28, 2007**

### **DCFS In The Know**

- Ms. Page stated that the Conference was a big success and that she appreciated getting to interact with the staff of DCFS.
- Ms. Page stated that she learned many details that is happening in the field and was appreciative to staff for sharing their ideas and concern.

### **DCFS Organizational Assessment**

- Ms. Page informed the Board of the Assessment conducted by the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement. The consultants were Sarah Webster and Anna Stone.
- The report is due any day now and Ms. Page will share the outcome of the report as soon as she has access to it.
- Ms. Page stated that DCFS will review and develop an implementation plan for recommendations accepted. Ms. Page asked if anyone would like to serve on that committee. The board members who volunteered are as follows: David Tindall, Howard Turney, June Simpson, Lisa McGhee

### **DCFS Executive Staff**

- Ms. Page announced that the Executive Team is advertising for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time for the Director of Community Services position.
- Ms. Page stated that shortly after that she will begin working with LARP.
- Ms. Page announced that Ms. Billy Burke is retiring.

### **Transformation-Adoption- Marilyn Counts**

- Ms. Page stated that she and Ms. Marilyn Counts have travelled to Northeast and Northwest Arkansas for the Adoption Summit. Ms. Page stated that they attended meetings with the Adoption Coalition to hear concerns from the Coalition. Ms. Page stated that she, along with DCFS Executive Staff, will be forming a plan to address the issues. Ms. Page also handed out a review of the Adoption Summit and items that were discussed.
- Ms. Page asked for Board members to help work with the Adoption Summit and volunteers were as follows: Pamela Taylor, Lisa McGhee, June Simpson and Howard Turney.
- It was suggested that an online adoption packet be placed on line to cut down on time spent to finalize an adoption.
- Ms. Page stated that the Web page is being worked on and that it will be updated.
- Ms. Counts stated that there are Heart Galleries on the web at this time. The Heart Galleries are used to place professional pictures of children waiting to be adopted on the web. Ms. Counts stated that Area 8 Coalition is keeping the photographs updated.
- It was also suggested that the public be made aware of the different websites, etc. that are being used for adoptions.

- Ms. Counts stated that on November 16, Heart Galleries will be placed at the Clinton Library. Ms. Counts stated that the Adoption Coalition will also be meeting on that day.
- Ms. Counts announced that the Executive Team is looking at revising the Adoption Areas.

### **Transformation-Investigations**

- Ms. Page announced that she is holding “listening” sessions around the state with staff and other Stakeholders to see if it would be feasible for DCFS to have one Single Investigation Unit. Ms. Page stated that the unit would not be supervised under the Area Management.
- Ms. Page announced that the state ranks top 2 in the nation in reunification but 2<sup>nd</sup> worse in multiple placements. Ms. Page stated that the Placement Unit would work on this and that she expects a proposal by October.
- Ms. Page stated that she will be working with Commission, CACD, and MDT coordinators for a system development if she proceeded with the Single Investigations Unit.

### **Transformation-Placement**

- Ms. Counts also announced that DCFS will be hiring two Placement Specialist, who will be responsible for keeping a web-based system for matching purposes.
- Ms. Page stated that the Placement Unit would also be responsible for identifying foster home recruitment (including specialized and child-specific homes) and for developing specialized placements.
- A proposal is expected in October.

### **Partnership for Child Welfare Research**

- Ms. Page announced that the Partnership will be meeting on October 3 for the third time.
- Mr. Howard Turney stated that he needs clear and usable data on what we want asked. Mr. Turney will give feedback to the Board, hopefully, with good information.
- Grant proposals will be given on Home visiting nurses and Meth.

### **Transformation-IT**

- Ms. Page announced that CHRIS Training has been given back to Mid-South.
- Ms. Page also spoke on CHRIS and IT functions as it relates to DCFS.

### **CFSR-Debbie Shields**

- Ms. Shield updated the Board on the Children and Family Services Review.
- Ms. Shield stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> review was conducted in 2001 and consists of a two prong approach: 1) ask states to self assess and 2) the on-site review.
- Ms. Shields stated that the on-site review will begin on January 28, 2008. Ms. Shields stated that 25 foster care cases will be reviewed, 40 in-home visits by the Reviewers will be conducted and that 3 counties will be selected for the review. Ms. Shields stated that Pulaski is always chosen.

- Ms. Shields stated that the Reviewers will consist of Federal and State Partners.
- Ms. Shields stated that a Statewide Assessment Team (SWAT) is being developed to conduct a statewide assessment. Ms. Shields stated that the team will consist of YAB members, FSW'S and Parents. Ms. Shield stated that the Team will meet on October 3, 16 & 24 and that the documents will be given to the Feds.
- Ms. Shields stated that the report will come out 30 days after on-site is completed.
- Ms. Shields emphasized that no state has passed a federal review.
- Ms. Shields announced that Ms. Linda Mitchell is the on-site coordinator and that if anyone is interested in joining the Team to contact Ms. Shields.
- Ms. Shields stated that the Reviewers will really be looking at how DCFS engage fathers and age appropriate children of their needs.
- Ms. Shields stated that sanctions come with goal settings and PIP

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **Staffing and Retention-David Tindall**

- Mr. Tindall gave a report on the Michigan Family Independence Agency's Centrally Coordinated Hiring Pool.
- Mr. Tindall stated that the state of Michigan hires new workers in anticipation of vacancies expected to occur weeks into the future.
- Mr. Tindall also stated that hiring is done at one central locations and newly hired workers are required to attend an 8 week, new worker training program before being allowed to carry a caseload.
- Mr. Tindall stated that county offices interviewed and hired all of their workers from candidate lists created by the Michigan Department of Civil Service. The FIA projects hiring needs two to four months out and uses a centralized hiring process to hire employees to fill the expected vacancies.
- The Board agreed to look further into the report to see if it could benefit DCFS.

#### **Legislative-Lisa McGhee**

- Ms. Mc. Ghee stated that things are going well for the committee and that she did not have anything to report at this time.

#### **Program Services- Pamela Taylor**

- Ms. Taylor informed the Board that the committee was looking into the IDA fund that is given to low-income persons who fit their criteria.
- Ms. Taylor also informed that Board that the committee was looking into the YAB members speaking to the Task Force to obtain funds for the ILP Program.

#### **Legislation Implementation-Sandi Doherty**

- Ms. Doherty announced the implementation of the Driver's License Bill, the Smoking Bill, Foster Parent Support Bill, and the FBI Check for Foster Parents.
- Ms. Consevella James asked Ms. Doherty to make sure that the different Providers are aware of the new Bills.
- Ms. Doherty also passed out new Executive Directives.

- Ms. James also wanted Ms. Doherty to mail all of the directives to the different providers.
- Ms. Doherty also announced the Holiday Bazaar that would be taking place November 30, 2007 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the DPS Conference Room A & B.

#### **Personnel and Budget-Cecile Blucker**

- Ms. Blucker announced that the Agency lost TANF last and that service went back to Workforce from DCO.
- Ms. Blucker stated that TANF funds investigations for State Police and DCFS.
- Ms. Blucker stated that re-allocation of resources were on hold until December.
- Ms. Blucker announced that CLIP Bonuses has ceased and has been replaced with performance based raises.
- Ms. Blucker also handed out DCFS Position Control Field Staff Summary.

#### **Accreditation- Calvin Wilbon**

- Mr. Wilbon announced that August 2004 began the 4 year cycle and that the Accreditation will expire in August 2008.
- Mr. Wilbon stated that he and his staff will be completing a self-study beginning in October and ending May 24, 2008.
- Mr. Wilbon asked for anyone who would be willing to work with the Team.
- Mr. Wilbon stated that he is excited because all of the documentation will be done electronically.
- Mr. Wilbon stated that staff would have to review case files, interview clients, foster parents and parents, and conduct a walk through of facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.